

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. Applicant thanks the Examiner for total consideration given the present application. Claims 1-11 are pending prior to the Office Action. No claims have been added and no claims have been canceled through this reply. Therefore, claims 1-11 are pending. Claims 1 and 7 are independent. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejected claims in light of the remarks presented herein, and earnestly seek timely allowance of all pending claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates that claims 1-6 and 11 are indicated to be allowable.

OFFICIAL ACTION

Preliminary Comments

Request for Personal Interview

By this reply, Applicant is respectfully requesting a personal interview if the Examiner maintains the rejection of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 7-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The Examiner rejected claims 7-10 asserting that the claims contain subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

The Examiner is, for some reason, of the opinion that claim 1 of the present application is solely supported by Fig. 1 of the present application. This position has never before been presented by the Examiner and is unsupported by the record of the instant application and contrary to the facts before the Examiner.

Claims 1 and 7-10 are fully supported by the written disclosure. This is clear since claims 1 and 7-10 are original claims and are thus inherently supported by Applicants specification. However, the Applicants have amended claim 7 merely to move prosecution forward.

Claim 7 has been amended to include features similar to claim 1; however, the corrector executing shading correction solely includes shading correction on a first image signal derived from said first photosensitive cell and on a second image signal derived from said second photosensitive cell. The current amendment of claim 7 is drafted according to a shading characteristic common to said first photosensitive cell and said second photosensitive cell and not to separate shading characteristics for each of high- and low-sensitivity photosensitive cells.

Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 7-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

Conclusion

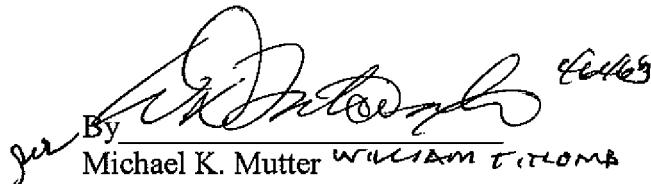
Therefore, for at least these reasons, all claims are believed to be allowable. In view of the above remarks, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned, at the telephone number below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
Michael K. Mutter *William T. Lomb*
Registration No.: 29,680
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant